

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-26 originally presented have been cancelled in favor of claims 27-52 accompanying this amendment. These claims track to a large extent the claims presented in the Preliminary Amendment. It is believed that the rewriting of the claims cures the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The rejection of the claims as anticipated by Titterington U.S. patent No.. 4,992,304 is respectfully traversed. Titterington discloses a method for producing a light transmissive printed substrate. The substrate is printed with a predetermined pattern of light transmissive phase change ink to form a printed image layer. An intermediate optically clear adhesion promoting layer is introduced between the light transmissive phase change ink and the base substrate. In contrast the presently claimed invention sets forth a method of applying a relief inscription to a substrate made of plastic by ejecting drops of fluidized plastic from ejector nozzles. The Titterington and the present invention afford solutions to totally different technical problems. In Titterington, the disclosure is directed to ameliorate the problem of adhesion between the ink image layer and the substrate with an intermediate adhesion layer. In the present invention, an inscription relief is provided particularly in the field of plastic cards. Particularly Titterington does not disclose a method of applying printing in relief to a substrate formed of a plastic material with ejector nozzles. The thickness in the Titterington substrate due to the intermediate layer between the substrate and the light transmissive phase change ink is different than the relief produced by the inscription with a plastic material of variable viscosity. In short, the inscription in relief by ejecting drops of fluidized plastic material with ejector nozzles is not disclosed in Titterington.

Moreover, the claims require the positive step of cooling the material deposited. Titterington discloses that when the ink contacts the surface of the printing media, the drops quickly solidify to form a predetermined pattern. That is a natural phenomena and not a specific positive cooling step. It is not merely sufficient to just depose plastic material onto a substrate. Rather, in the presently claimed invention, a positive cooling of the material is set forth. Thus the step of cooling the plastic material is not disclosed in the Titterington patent.

The rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Titterington in view of Spehrley and as unpatentable over Curiel in view Titterington is respectfully traversed. The Spehrley and Curiel

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patents do not teach these characteristics set forth in the invention as currently claimed. Nothing in these three patents suggest a method of applying a relief inscription to substrates formed of plastic material by ejecting drops of fluidized plastic from ejector nozzles. Applicant submits that the characteristics set forth in these claims is both new and unobvious. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims presently pending is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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